

THINGS THE PLAIN DEALER IS POSTING ON CLEVELAND.COM/OPINION TODAY:

More on the blog

Go slow with patent reform

Government is being inundated with calls for rapid change to most rules governing our markets. But the courts already have sprinkled across our patent system a large number of potent changes the past few years. Only time will tell whether more would help or hurt, let alone which type would be a good decision to try.

Letters to the editor

Have your say

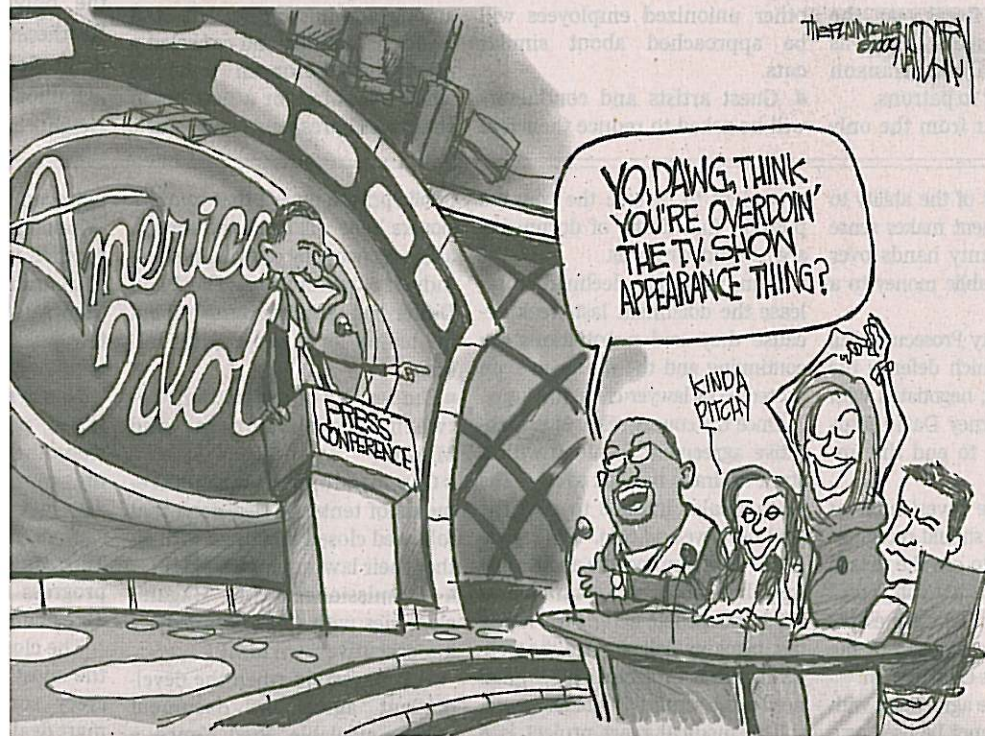
- Cleveland will be revitalized when it returns to its roots: manufacturing and agriculture.
- Catholic clergy have no more important role than ministering to the disadvantaged.

OPINION

SUSAN GOLDBERG | Editor

BRENT W. LARKIN | Editorial Page Director

ROBERT M. LONG | Executive Vice President



Cartoon by Jeff Darcy at: jdarcy@plained.com, 216-999-4445

View Darcy's cartoons on the Web at cleveland.com/darcy/

LETTERS

Schools usually agree to special-ed plans

Getting a handle on special ed demonstrates a fundamental misunderstanding by the editorial board.

I disagree with the suggestion that school "districts have little choice but to pay up — no matter how high the fees or how untested the program." In fact, in all but a tiny fraction of cases, districts agree to every word on the individualized education program, which outlines the services for a child who receives special education.

A child receiving special education has a right to a free, appropriate, public education — a right protected by federal and state law. In the vast majority of situations, the needs of a child can be met within the public school. A decision to place out of district is never made lightly. Certainly, it never involves handing parents a "blank check," as the editorial suggests.

Ohio's education budgets should not be balanced on the backs of children with disabilities.

MALLORY CURRAN
Cleveland Heights

Curran is with Community Advocacy Program, a partnership of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and the MetroHealth Medical Center.

Schools are not victims

Your editorial fails to mention that schools send these children out of district only when the children's deficits

A city story, written on location

Screenwriter Earlaina Kemp turned from the swarm of relatives and well-wishers, closed her eyes a few times and "Why am I crying?" and just met her, but I shared my experiences:

CONNIE SCHULTZ



ONLINE: Check out the schedule for the Cleveland International Film Festival at: clevelandfilm.org Watch Earlaina Kemp's film, "MANchild," at: scenariosusa.org/watchfilms/